

### § 3.1606

arises at the expiration of an authorized absence are not included); is considered as having died while hospitalized.

(e) *Persons not properly hospitalized.* Where a deceased person was not properly hospitalized, benefits will not be authorized under this section.

[26 FR 1621, Feb. 24, 1961, as amended at 26 FR 7738, Aug. 18, 1961; 31 FR 5757, Apr. 14, 1966; 32 FR 3743, Mar. 4, 1967; 36 FR 22144, Nov. 20, 1971; 38 FR 30107, Nov. 1, 1973; 44 FR 22722, Apr. 17, 1979; 48 FR 41162, Sept. 14, 1983]

### § 3.1606 Transportation items.

The transportation costs of those persons who come within the provisions of §§ 3.1600(g) and 3.1605 (a), (b), (c), and (d) may include the following:

(a) *Shipment by common carrier.* (1) Charge for pickup of remains from place hospitalized or place of death but not to exceed the usual and customary charge made the general public for the same service.

(2) Procuring permit for shipment.

(3) *Shipping case.* When a box purchased for interment purposes is also used as the shipping case, the amount payable may not exceed the usual and customary charge for a shipping case. In any such instance any excess amount would be an acceptable item to be included in the burial allowance expenses.

(4) Cost of sealing outside case (tin or galvanized iron), if a vault (steel or concrete) is used as a shipping case and also for burial, an allowance of \$30 may be made thereon in lieu of a separate shipping case.

(5) Cost of hearse to point where remains are to be placed on common carrier for shipment.

(6) Cost of transportation by common carrier including amounts paid as Federal taxes.

(7) Cost of one removal by hearse direct from common carrier plus one later removal by hearse to place of burial.

(b) *Transported by hearse.* (1) Charge for pickup of remains from place hospitalized, or place of death and

(2) Charge for one later removal by hearse to place of burial. These charges will not exceed those made the general public for the same services.

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(3) Payment of hearse charges for transporting the remains over long distances are limited to prevailing common carrier rates when common carrier service is available and can be easily and effectively utilized.

[26 FR 1622, Feb. 24, 1961, as amended at 36 FR 22144, Nov. 20, 1971; 38 FR 27354, Oct. 3, 1973; 41 FR 55875, Dec. 23, 1976; 42 FR 26205, May 23, 1977]

### § 3.1607 Cost of flags.

No reimbursement will be authorized for the cost of a burial flag privately purchased by relatives, friends, or other parties but such cost may be included in a claim for the burial allowance.

[26 FR 1622, Feb. 24, 1961]

### § 3.1608 Nonallowable expenses.

No reimbursement will be allowed for:

(a) *Accessory items.* Such as items of food and drink.

(b) *Duplicate items.* Any item or cost of any item or service, such as casket, clothing, etc., previously provided or paid for by any Federal agency (including the Department of Veterans Affairs).

[26 FR 1622, Feb. 24, 1961]

### § 3.1609 Forfeiture.

(a) Forfeiture of benefits for fraud by a veteran during his lifetime will not preclude payment of burial and plot or interment allowance if otherwise in order. No benefits will be paid to a claimant who participated in the fraud which caused the forfeiture by the veteran.

(b) Burial and plot or interment allowance is not payable based on a period of service commencing prior to the date of commission of the offense where either the veteran or claimant has forfeited the right to gratuitous benefits under § 3.902 or § 3.903 by reason of a treasonable act or subversive activities, unless the offense was pardoned by the President of the United States prior to the date of the veteran's death.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5904(c)(2), 5905(a))

## Department of Veterans Affairs

## §3.1612

CROSS REFERENCE: Effect of forfeiture after veteran's death. See §3.904.

[38 FR 30107, Nov. 1, 1973, as amended at 41 FR 55875, Dec. 27, 1976]

### §3.1610 Burial in national cemeteries; burial of unclaimed bodies.

The statutory burial allowance and permissible transportation charges as provided in §§3.1600 through 3.1611 are also payable under the following conditions:

(a) Where burial of a deceased veteran is in a national cemetery, provided that burial in a national cemetery is desired by the person or persons entitled to the custody of the remains for interment and permission for burial has been received from the officers having jurisdiction over burials in national cemeteries; or

(b) Where the body of a deceased veteran is unclaimed by relatives or friends (see §3.1603), the Director of the regional office in the area in which the veteran died will immediately complete arrangements for burial in a national cemetery or, at his or her option, in a cemetery or cemetery section meeting the requirements of §3.1604(d)(1)(ii)-(iv), provided that the total amount payable for burial and transportation expenses (including the plot allowance, if entitlement is established) does not exceed the total amount payable had burial been in a national cemetery.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1501(a))

[57 FR 29025, June 30, 1992; 57 FR 40944, Sept. 8, 1992]

### §3.1611 Official Department of Veterans Affairs representation at funeral.

When requested by the person entitled to the custody of the body of a deceased beneficiary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, official representation at the funeral will be granted provided an employee is available for the purpose and this representation will entail no expense to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

[26 FR 1622, Feb. 24, 1961]

### §3.1612 Monetary allowance in lieu of a Government-furnished headstone or marker.

(a) *Purpose.* This section provides for the payment of a monetary allowance in lieu of furnishing a headstone or marker at Government expense under the provisions of §1.631(a)(2) and (b) of this chapter to the person entitled to request such a headstone or marker.

(b) *Eligibility for the allowance.* All of the following conditions shall be met:

(1) The deceased veteran was eligible for burial in a National cemetery (See §1.620 (a), (b), (c) and (d) of this chapter); or died under circumstances precluding the recovery or identification of the veteran's remains or the veteran's remains were buried at sea.

(2) The veteran was buried on or after October 18, 1978.

(3) The headstone or marker was purchased to mark the otherwise unmarked grave of the deceased veteran or, if death occurred prior to December 18, 1989, the veteran's identifying information was added to an existing headstone or marker.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 2306(d))

(4) The headstone or marker is for placement in a cemetery other than a National cemetery or the headstone or marker upon which the veteran's identifying information was added is situated in a cemetery other than a National cemetery.

(c) *Person entitled to request a Government-furnished headstone or marker.* For purposes of this monetary allowance, the term "person entitled to request a headstone or marker" includes, but is not limited to, the person who purchased the headstone or marker (or if death occurred prior to December 18, 1989, the person who paid for adding the veteran's identifying information to an existing headstone or marker), or the executor, administrator or person representing the deceased's estate.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 2306(d))

(d) *Receipted bill.* A receipted bill describing the headstone or marker (or the services rendered in adding the veteran's identifying information to an existing headstone or marker) date of purchase, purchase price, the amount